



THE MADERA COUNTY HISTORIAN

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MADERA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY

Volume I - Number 4

October, 1961

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF HISTORY FOSTER'S HOGUE RANCH

BY: DORIS AND CLYDE FOSTER

History is only made by people. Rarely do we find an object, or event, that has created history within itself unless a person has been involved. Thus the pioneers have given us much interesting data concerning their lives while they were developing the country that we now enjoy.

Here we record some of the facts surrounding the lives of the people who made history for the famous Foster's Hogue Ranch.

The first man, who turned the wilderness area of this ranch into a home was Jesse B. Ross, who had the courage to match his dreams. As a young man he migrated from Missouri sometime in the very early 1850's, with his younger brother, Cal. His first recorded activity was packing supplies from Hamptonville, now known as Friant, to the several stores located at Logan Meadow, who, in turn, supplied the many miners in the adjacent areas. He camped overnight at the present Hogue Ranch site, which at that time was also a favorite camping site for the Mono Indian Tribes, and for the miners and prospectors traveling into the placer diggings on the upper San Joaquin River and other tributary streams. From the ranch these distances varied from twelve to thirty miles, and more.



This one hundred year old log house on Foster's Hogue Ranch stands as an interesting landmark of the past.

At this time there was no road into the ranch. The nearest road came into North Fork and ended about where Buck Horn Lodge is now located. This road was built sometime soon after 1854 and was the end of the road until the early 70's.

In 1877 Charles E. Strivens extended the North Fork road to what is now Cascadel Ranch. The
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following year Jesse Ross, with his brother, Cal, built a very cheap road north from Cascadel Ranch up the mountain to what later became the site of the original Peckinpah Sawmill. The Rosses also built a road east from Cascadel Ranch to the Ross Ranch (Hogue). This was the end of the road until about 1934 when it was extended by the Civilian Conservation Corp (C.C.'s) to Rock Creek.

On November 15, 1879 Jesse B. Ross granted John S. French the right to use Ross's road running from the ranch of Charles E. Strivens (Cascadel Ranch) to the Ross Ranch (Hogue).

John S. French was a mining promoter operating out of San Francisco, and developing mines in the Mammoth area. He needed a trail to reach his mining activities as the Old Indian Trail was not suitable for heavy packing. So he started building a trail beginning at Ross's Ranch. The trail crossed Ross Creek and Indian Creek (Fish Creek) and then continued on to Rock Creek from a point near what is now the Wissman Mine. From Rock Creek it followed a very even grade to a point near the present Mammoth Dam, and continued up the San Joaquin River and ended at Rainbow Falls, which is due south of Devils Postpile. Such a trail was surveyed by D.H.L. Orr, and this survey was filed on August 14, 1880. It was called the Madera and Mammoth Saddle Trail, but for many years now it has been known only as the French Trail.

Ross became very fond of the ranch site and when his packing activity lessened, he located there around 1858 and called it Ross Ranch. He planted about five acres of apple trees, and about 1860 built his home some three fourths of a mile from his orchard.

The main block of this first orchard was planted to Red Pearmain apples, with some Snow apples on the fringe

areas. It is believed Jesse Ross purchased his trees from Stark Brothers in Louisiana, Missouri, as the latter company had been in existence since 1816. Having come from Missouri Ross was no doubt familiar with apples and their growing tendencies and needs. The spacing of the trees and their early shaping proved his knowledge of fruit culture.

Ross was a man of slight build who stood about five feet eleven inches tall. He had thick dark hair. Old timers have described him as a very genteel person and a true pioneer, who shared the hardship, the danger, the work, and the glory. He made shakel, constructed roads, engaged in cattle and hog raising, in farming and whatever else was to be done he did his part.

Soon after his log home was completed, Ross married a native American named Mary Waspi, whom he had met during his many overnight camping visits to the ranch. Mary was somewhat of a leader in her tribe and was affectionately called 'Captain' by many of the Indians. She returned to her people sometime around 1885 and never lived on the ranch again. Her death occurred in 1949 in North Fork at an age nearing 109 years.

Mary and Jesse Ross had one daughter, Julia Belle, who was born in 1870. She was a strong robust girl with high cheek bones and raven black hair. She was attending Rachel Ward School in Fresno when she met and married George Francis (Frank) Hallock in 1891. He had migrated from New York the same year. Hallock was a short heavyset man, schooled in law and was several years the senior of Julia Belle Ross. Of this union was born a son, Homer, who still resides in North Fork and who will reach seventy years this year (1961). He is a veteran of World War I and

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF HISTORY (Continued)

saw service on all the European Battlefields.

In the 1890's Ross engaged in the raising of wheat and in a rather extensive operation of raising pink beans. He cleared much of the area that is now planted to apple orchard and raised wheat and pink beans on the many acres. Some thirty to forty tons of beans were harvested every year and sold in Fresno. About 1895 William A. (Bill) Ellis, who was elected a Madera County Supervisor in 1902, hauled a large load of beans to the Fresno market from the ranch.

Many Indian women worked at the ranch during the wheat and bean harvests. The beans were evidently threshed with a flail or a round willow pole, and then the Indian women used their native winnowing baskets to separate the chaff from the beans. They used sticks to thresh the wheat and then winnowed it out in the baskets.

Hard work and rugged living finally took their toll on Jesse Ross and he was a very ill man when he died in 1899. He was buried on the ranch which he loved so much.

Homestead Application No. 6466 on Ross Ranch was filed at the proper time. After meeting the necessary requirements, Ross "proved up" on the homestead and Patent (Homestead Certificate No. 3172) was signed by President William McKinley on November 12, 1900. This was after Ross's death so he never knew of the result of his many labors.

Ross Ranch officially passed into the hands of Julia Belle Ross Hallock on February 28, 1902, but about this time she was having health problems. Suffering with a kidney infection from which there seemed no cure, Julia Belle deeded the ranch to her husband, George Francis (Frank) Hallock in August of 1904, and she died the same year. She was buried beside her fath-

er on the ranch.

About this time Hallock planted a few additional apple trees, mostly near the log house. The variety was King of Tompkins County, from Tompkins County, New York, the birthplace of Hallock. He continued to raise beans and also evaporated many tons of apples and sent them in large wooden boxes to Fresno markets. This venture was apparently successful for a time. Distances and road conditions in those days ruled out the transportation of fresh apples to the market.

On November 15, 1910 Hallock sold Ross Ranch to Samuel L. Hogue, who had come from Illinois in 1872. He was the first school teacher in the Selma schools and also served as a Justice of the Peace in that city and in Fresno. In 1881 he married Effie H. Brown of Yolo County, California. They had two sons and two daughters; Lassen E., James T., E. Lucile and Evelyn H. Lucile Hogue Williams, widow of Dr. Charles C. Williams of Fresno, is the only one now surviving.

The Hogue family came to Ross Ranch to make their home and the name was changed to Hogue Ranch. They lived in the log house that had been built by Ross.

About 1912 Samuel Hogue planted an additional twenty acres to apple trees. These varieties were Red Delicious, Winter Banana, Arkansas Black, Lawver, Spitzenberg and Jonathon. Sometime later he purchased a few Golden Delicious trees from Stark Brothers, Missouri; the same company who had supplied Ross's first plantings. Hogue used these trees as a base for grafting some of the Lawver trees. He, also, continued to raise pink beans, planting them in them in the orchard rows until the apple trees became too large.

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ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF HISTORY (Continued)

Progress arrived at the ranch about this time when Hogue purchased a fanning mill to clean the beans, and this method replaced some of the Indian women with their winnowing baskets.

Hogue and his two sons also engaged in the raising of hogs. They did extensive fencing for this operation, but the venture was not a very successful one. Another venture was a small sawmill built on the ranch near Ross Creek. It was operated by a wooden water wheel for the purpose of making box shooks for the apples.

Mrs. Effie Hogue passed away in 1921. In 1930 Hogue sold the ranch to Joseph E. Foster and his son, Clyde T. Foster.

After retiring from ranch life, Samuel L. Hogue worked in the Fresno County Auditor's office and was active in lodge and church work. His death, resulting from a heart attack, occurred July 3, 1935 at his summer home at Camp Sierra.

So in 1930 the owners of the historic Hogue Ranch were Joseph E. Foster and his son, Clyde T. Foster.

The father of Joseph Foster was Overton H. Foster, who was born in Missouri on April 3, 1825. He arrived in California in 1846 when he was about 20 years old and, almost immediately, he joined General Fremont's army and served through many skirmishes. Sometime later he met a young widow, Nancy Marinda Dickey Bailey. She was born, also, in Missouri on November 26, 1830 and came to California in 1847. She married Adison Bailey on September 10, 1849 but became his widow when Bailey died about 1854 while crossing the Isthmus of Panama.

Overton Foster and Nancy Marinda Bailey were married in Martinez on September 25, 1856. They became the parents of four sons and three daughters. Joseph was their third son. Overton died May 6, 1907 and was buried

in Dunlap. Nancy Marinda passed on December 28, 1914 and was buried by Overton's side in the Dunlap cemetery.

Joseph E. Foster came to Mussel Slough, near Hanford, with his parents and were living there at the time of the historic Mussel Slough Tragedy. When Joseph was thirteen years old he moved with his parents to Dunlap. After his schooling he engaged in a variety of activities, including farming and team driving. On July 15, 1894 he married Ida Cornelia Turner of Dunlap.

Ida Cornelia Turner was born May 1, 1876 in Dunlap and was one of fifteen children. Her parents were Peter Q. and Emily Keener Turner, the latter having crossed the plains by ox team with her parents when she was ten years old. She was the first white woman to have made a home in the Dunlap area.

Joseph Foster homesteaded a ranch eight miles east of Dunlap in 1898 and planted an apple orchard, one of the first in the district. Joseph and Ida Foster were the parents of nine children, eight of them living today (1961). Their eldest son was killed in World War I. There were five sons and four daughters. Their fourth son was Clyde T., who was born in Dunlap.

When Foster and his son, Clyde, acquired the Hogue Ranch in 1930 they made many improvements. Extensive grafting was done, including the grafting of the original Red Pearmain apples, planted by Ross, to Starking (Delicious), and a large block of the Lawvers, planted by Hogue, to Golden Delicious. Another improvement was the building of a seven foot deer fence to enclose the orchard. They did not engage in other farming but concentrated on the apples.



Nestled among pines and oaks at an elevation of 4500 feet, lies historic Foster's Hogue Ranch. The buildings are slightly left of center while the orchard extends to the right foreground. Musick Peak overlooks in the background.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF HISTORY (Continued)

Clyde T. Foster purchased his father's interest in the Hogue Ranch on January 26, 1944 and continued to develop and improve the ranch. He has been actively engaged in apple raising for over forty years.

Joseph Foster died on July 8, 1949 and was buried near his parents in Dunlap. It is an interesting note that all four grandparents of Clyde Foster are buried in the Dunlap Cemetery.

On March 23, 1949 Clyde Foster married Doris Elizabeth Madison, a widow, in Monterey, California. Doris was a Missourian, the daughter of William G. and Nellie Elizabeth Kimball Parks. In 1910, when a very small girl, Doris came to California with her parents and brother. They settled in Fresno where Doris was

reared, schooled, married and widowed. She was employed with the United States Forest Service in North Fork just prior to her marriage to Clyde Foster.

The same year of their marriage, 1949, Clyde and Doris Foster planted about ten acres of new orchard at the Hogue Ranch. These varieties of apples were Red and Golden Delicious. The next year, 1950, they built a home and came to the ranch to live permanently.

Through the years the marketing methods of apples from Foster's Hogue Ranch have been changed. In the 1930's apples were stored in Fresno and deliveries made directly to Valley merchants. In more recent years almost the entire crop has been retailed at the ranch.

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HISTORICAL HARVEST HELP - FOSTER'S HOGUE RANCH

BY: DORIS & CLYDE FOSTER

Once upon a harvest, there was a shortage of apple pickers at the Hogue Ranch. It was the year 1952, and the men who had picked for several years had found it necessary to secure year-round employment and had gone into other endeavors, such as road construction, mining and logging. Women had never been employed at the ranch as pickers obviously because of the ladder work. But now was the time. Shorter ladders, which could be handled by women, were purchased. The many employment applications, which had long been on file, were scanned for a crew of women pickers. It was a new beginning. The Indian women of North Fork were eager to work and several were promptly hired. All of them were Mono Indians.

There was Clara Harris and her two daughters, Gladys and Frieda. The husband and father was Custodian at the North Fork Grammar School. They all lived on a ranch near North Fork and raised cattle and horses.

The Jacksons, who were cousins of the Harris Family, also came to work at the ranch. Annie Jackson Lewis and her sisters, Mina Jackson and Anita Rogozienski were all born near North Fork and had lived there all of their lives. Annie had two sons and lived with her husband and younger son in their home near the Old Indian Mission close to Cascadel Ranch on Peckinpah Mountain. Mina lived in a small home nearby, and had never married. Anita married a Polish chap and acquired the unusual name of Rogozienski. They had several children and all lived near Anita's sister's homes. All three Jackson girls had gone to the Indian Mission school.

It was on February 11, 1848 that a young man by the name of Joe Kinsman deserted his ship in San Francisco. He had sailed from the East coast to a new world, and home. It was claimed that Joe Kinsman was the first white

man to arrive in North Fork. Kinsman Flat on the Mammoth Road, less than four miles south of the Hogue Ranch is named for its founder. Kinsman was a small man and affectionately called "Little Britches" by the Indians. And so in 1952 Joe Kinsman's grand daughter came to work at the Hogue Ranch. Annie Kinsman had been trained as a nurse but preferred to be with her own people and to enjoy the great outdoors, which was her heritage.

During the time that Jesse Ross and Mary Waspe Ross lived at the Ross (Hogue) Ranch there was born at the Indian Rancherie, located across the road and slightly east of the ranch, an Indian baby called Susan Hicks. As Susan grew older she went to work for Jesse Ross during the wheat and bean harvest operations. Susan and Mary Waspe were cousins, their mothers having been sisters. In due time, Susan Hicks met and married Mike Johnson, also a Mono Indian. Susan and Mike were the parents of twelve children, one of whom was Mary Johnson Williams. Mary was married to Sam Williams, a Navajo Indian from Arizona, and they had four children, and all lived in their own home near the former Indian Mission. Mary worked each year at the ranch.

Then there was Gertrude Bethel, who was a grand-daughter of Bill Charley, an old-timer of the Dunlap area. The Charley family were all Mono Indians, and had been known by the Fosters since about the 1900's. Many members of the Indian family had been employed by the Fosters through the years. Gertrude was married to James Bethel, member of an old time North Fork Indian family. The couple had, as Gertrude expressed it, "half a dozen children". They lived near Auberry.

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HISTORICAL HARVEST HELP (Continued)

Frances Kelly, Viola Magee, a cousin of Annie Kinsman, and Ruby Pomona, were other Indian pickers. Ruby had married into the Pomona family and it was at the ranch of the older Pomonas - now occupied by Molly Pomona - that Mary Waspe Ross, wife of Jesse Ross, died in 1949.

Faustina Tex was a member of an old-time Indian family, whose many generations had lived in the North Fork area. Their ranch was on the Auberry Road.

All of these Indians live very much as the whites, subsisting on about an equal diet, but the Indians liked to supplement their meals with acorn meal, just as their ancestors did. During the noon hours of picking time at the Hogue Ranch, and after hours, the women would gather acorns on and near the ranch. The older generation used long poles to knock the acorns off the trees, later picked them up off the ground into boxes and bags.

Clara Harris and Susan Johnson, Mary Williams' mother, were basket makers with the same skill and artistry of the long-ago Indians. Clara made a papoose basket (Hoop), and Susan made a very unusual "shoe basket". Both of these items are prize possessions of the Fosters.

These colorful women were valuable employees; they were loyal, dependable and very careful in handling the apples. They were a happy crew, always laughing, and quite contented with their work.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS (Continued)

The last twelve years have revealed much progress at the historic Hogue Ranch. Long ago this now famous ranch was the end of the road. But today (1961) there is a high standard road reaching from the ranch to some forty miles beyond. Where once the apples were sorted and packed under the large

ONE HUNDRED YEARS (Continued)

cedar trees now stands a neat apple shed built by Clyde Foster. Even the one hundred year old log house has been reinforced, re-strengthened and re-roofed and stands as an interesting landmark of the past. Down through time have come a series of improvements of the lighting facilities at the ranch. From open bonfires to candles, then kerosene lamps, Coleman lamps, the Foster's own light generator, and now commercial power. A year ago (1960) logging operations were undertaken by Clyde and Doris Foster on the ranch to supply building material for an addition to their home, which has been accomplished only through their own efforts.

So progress goes on for this modern pioneer couple who love what they are doing and where they are living.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

With this issue, the first volume of The Madera County Historian is complete. This new activity of the Society began about a year ago, growing from four to eight pages and, in contents, working out very much as originally planned. For this we thank our loyal contributors, and the Sierra Press for their excellent job of printing.

Plans for Volume II are under way with Mr. Brook Mordicai consenting to do a sketch of his family. Mr. Mordicai and his sisters are second generation members of the Alabama Settlement.

Volume I with the addition of a supplement consisting of an alphabetical list of the California Battalion, all in an attractive folder, may be purchased from the Society at a cost of \$2.50 - the proceeds to be used to pay for future volumes.

WOOD FOR FUEL by NATHAN C. SWEET

In the days when travel on land was by horse, mule or ox, the most important materials for a good camp in which to spend the night were wood, water and grass. They were equally important to those hardy souls who first settled on the plains of Madera County. Grass was present in season, the same could be said for water, but, of wood, there was none. The nearest supply was in the foothills, some twenty miles to the east.

It is difficult today, with electricity, natural gas, and butane delivered to our door, to realize how dependent the early settlers were upon stove wood for both cooking and heating.

Franklin Buck (Yankee Trader in the Gold Rush), a forty-niner who settled in Weaverville on the Trinity River, in a letter to his sister in the east, written on January 22, 1860, mentioned that wood was getting scarce near town and that they had to go two miles to the nearest supply. It sold for \$8.00 per cord and 700 cords were used the previous year.

We do not have an account of the amount of wood consumed by the settlers in and about Borden, but the Mace Hotel Ledger records that fifteen and one-half cords were purchased during 1875. It was supplied by John Cunningham at \$8.00 per cord which appears to be the standard price in those days.

The following year, twenty-five cords were entered in the old book. The price varied somewhat, but most of it was purchased at \$8.00 per cord. The suppliers were H.S. Patterson, J.T. Pemberton, A.W. Campbell, Chas. H. Scammon and Thomas Lewis. In the case of Pemberton, Campbell and Scammon, the wood was taken in exchange for hotel and stable bills.

In December, 1876, Captain Mace

gave up his lease on the Burcham Hotel in Borden and moved to his new location on his own property in Madera. The records show thirty-five cords entered in the ledger for 1877. Thos. Hensley applied one and one-quarter cords on his hotel bill; Charles Johnson turned in three and one-half cords on his bill. Twenty-eight cords were supplied by Tom Lewis at \$6.00 per cord, but, were delivered by Chas. P. Badger for \$2.00 per cord. He hauled two to two and one-half cords to the load.

Fifty-six years later the standard price for cutting, splitting and piling a cord of stove wood in the Bootjack district of Mariposa County was \$6.00 per cord in the winter. In the summer, better jobs were available.

Today, a cord of oak stove wood brings \$35.00 per cord, without delivery, according to Mr. W.L. Clithero of Oakhurst. If the people of the San Joaquin Valley were obliged to revert to wood for fuel, what an expense it would be and how very soon it would denude the foothills of trees.

MADERA COUNTY HISTORIAN

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MADERA COUNTY HISTORIAN is published quarterly in January, April, July and October by the Madera County Historical Society, P.O. Box 478, Madera, California. Subscription, 50¢ per copy, \$2.00 per year is included in membership in the Society.